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(*b*) whether the prices of the main agricultural products have risen or fallen as compared with last year and by what per cent?

A.—(*a*) Enquiries are being made.

(*b*) The presidency averages of the retail prices of certain principal food crops for August 1933 show a fall as compared with similar averages for the corresponding month of last year. The percentages of fall are given below:—

	Percentage of fall.
Paddy, first sort	18·5
Do. second sort	16·7
Cholam	19·2
Cumbu	11·5
Ragi	9·7

11-30 a.m. Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know what sort of enquiry is being made, by whom and since what time?"

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Some weeks ago, the Board of Revenue were asked to obtain detailed reports from various Collectors."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I ask whether the result of the enquiries that are being made will be placed on the table of the House?"

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

Provision of marketing facilities for paddy and other produce.

* 354 *Q.*—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken by the Government to provide for marketing facilities for paddy and other produce; and

(*b*) what steps have been taken to get a reduction of railway freights throughout the year from the South Indian Railway Company for the carriage of paddy from the Tanjore district to both inland and overland markets?

A.—(*a*) Attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 85 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty on 2nd August 1933.

A scheme for the marketing of groundnut in both South and North Arcot districts was brought into operation during the year.

(*b*) The South Indian Railway announced a reduction of about 16 per cent in the through rates for rice from Tanjore and South Arcot districts to Colombo up to 9th October 1933 and intra-provincial rates have also been reduced for distances over 175 miles. The Agent, South Indian Railway, has been asked to report whether the concessional rates to Colombo are being continued, and if so, for how long. The Agent's reply is awaited.

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Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know if the Government have considered the desirability of appointing a marketing board? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what is the nature of the scheme of marketing groundnuts grown in South Arcot? "

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government will not consider the desirability of appointing a marketing board which will have the effect of getting better prices for paddy? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I believe, Sir, the matter is under consideration."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government consider the question of appointing a board for the Ceded districts? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Not for any particular locality but for the whole province."

Price of paddy.

* 355 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the current price of paddy is in each district; what was the price in each district in March 1933; and

(*b*) what steps have been taken by the Government to bring about better prices for paddy?

A.—(*a*) A statement* showing the prices of paddy first and second sort in March 1933 and in September 1933 (the latest month for which prices for all weeks are available) is annexed.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 354.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI :—" May I ask if the Government have noted the fall of the price for paddy? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to say what steps the Government are taking to improve the price of paddy? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice of the question."

* Printed as Appendix VI on page 619 infra.